

A Robot Takeover? Possibly.

By JULIA WANG

Will robots end up taking over all manpower? How will undereducated citizens find jobs? Derek Thompson, journalist for The Atlantic, provides thorough analysis of this issue:

What does the "end of work" mean, exactly? It does not mean the imminence of total unemployment... After 300 years of people crying wolf, there are now three broad reasons to take seriously the argument that the beast is at the door: the ongoing triumph of capital over labor, the quiet demise of the working man, and the impressive dexterity of information technology.

Accordingly, I examine the causes and effects of decreasing labor demand, struggle for young and unskilled workers, and expert tips for avoiding unemployment.

Recently, corporations have replaced much of human labor with technology. This turnover

toward advanced labor is heightening productivity and raising the income of qualified workers. Statistics accentuate the difference in employment between AT&T and Google, according to Thompson:

In 1964, the nation's most valuable company, AT&T, was worth \$267 billion in today's dollars and employed 758,611 people. Today's telecommunications giant, Google, is worth \$370 billion but has only about 55,000 employees—less than a tenth the size of AT&T's workforce in its heyday.

Thus, advanced technology has significantly decreased the number of employees needed to operate a massive corporation. This upgrades companies' efficiency, but means less opportunities for job-seekers with limited education or experience.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics addresses challenges for certain demographics:



MICHAEL MULVEY FOR USA TODAY

Google, a media giant, employs a workforce of only 55,000.

The disquieting news is that tomorrow's workers will have to be perpetual students to keep up, while lesser skilled workers will find themselves increasingly marginalized and sometimes, ultimately, replaced by technology in some form or fashion.

This statement addresses the challenges for college-age students and blue collar workers. Those who are hired receive minimal starting salaries. The battle between robots and humans over spots in the labor force continues.

A proposed solution to poverty is the universal base income, or UBI. This policy ensures every adult with at least \$10,000 in yearly income for the remainder of their lives. Countries such as Finland and Switzerland are planning to implement it. However, scholars from Wall Street Journal observe a problem:

As of 2015, the Current Population Survey tells us that 18% of unmarried males and 23% of unmarried women ages 25 through 54—people of prime working age—weren't

even in the labor force.

This statistic indicates that many able-bodied citizens are living on someone else's money. This utopian resolution would discourage people from joining the workforce.

The current situation contrasts sharply with the Industrial Revolution centuries ago. Following the advent of new machinery, millions of jobs were created in factories. Now Americans fear that machines will turn around and confiscate jobs in transportation, warehouse, and fast food industries. Experts consider this as a stimulus for modification that was as vital as the movement from the agricultural to industrial age.

Thus, cultural adjustment is just as important to cure the paranoia that machines are taking over the workforce. Should we work in tandem with automation or preserve human spirit as John Henry did?

Consequences of Lack of Education on the Female Reproductive System

By VAISHNAVI SIRIPURAPU

Although the female reproductive system can seem like a taboo topic, it is essential to the understanding of the human body. Attitudes about anatomical education have changed very little over the years, and many cultures discourage speaking openly about one's reproductive health.

Although discussion surrounding reproductive health may still be considered off-limits, in today's changing world, computers and the internet are making information more accessible than ever, and people are spending an increasing amount of time online, making the internet a valuable teaching tool.

Although the reproductive system is one of the most taboo topics to talk about openly, it might be the most important. Due to the fact that reproducing is the biological function of all life on the planet, the reproductive system is important. However, there are many more reasons than just biological necessity that make talking openly about the female reproductive system so vital.

Many harmful diseases of the reproductive system that have seemingly harmless symptoms are often ignored. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, diseases of the female reproductive system include but are not limited to: Endometriosis, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, ectopic pregnancy, yeast infections, vaginal and vulvar cancer, ovarian cysts, polycystic ovary syndrome, uterine cancer, and

uterine polyps according to Medline Plus' article on the Female Reproductive System. Keep in mind that these are only a small number of the host of diseases that affect the female reproductive system, not to mention sexually transmitted diseases.

Because the symptoms of these diseases appear as harmless as bloat, cramps, or fatigue, many people ignore them until it is too late according to Medline Plus' article on the Female Reproductive System. On the other hand, some people might experience symptoms such as vaginal itching or burning, but keep quiet because of the huge and unnecessary taboo placed on the female reproductive system.

A study published in the Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology in September of 2006 found that only 60.6% of urban adolescent females surveyed had correct knowledge of the length of the average menstrual cycle according to a study done by Lawrence D'Angelo and Anisha Abraham published in the Journal of pediatric and adolescent gynecology in 2006. The same study found that only 2% of these girls asked a doctor/nurse or information about their menstrual cycles, and 6% had nobody to ask for information. More distressingly, it was found that only 37% of those surveyed reported talking to their healthcare provider about dysmenorrhea, and only 14.5% sought help for their symptoms.

This is disturbing because many serious reproductive diseases such as pelvic in-

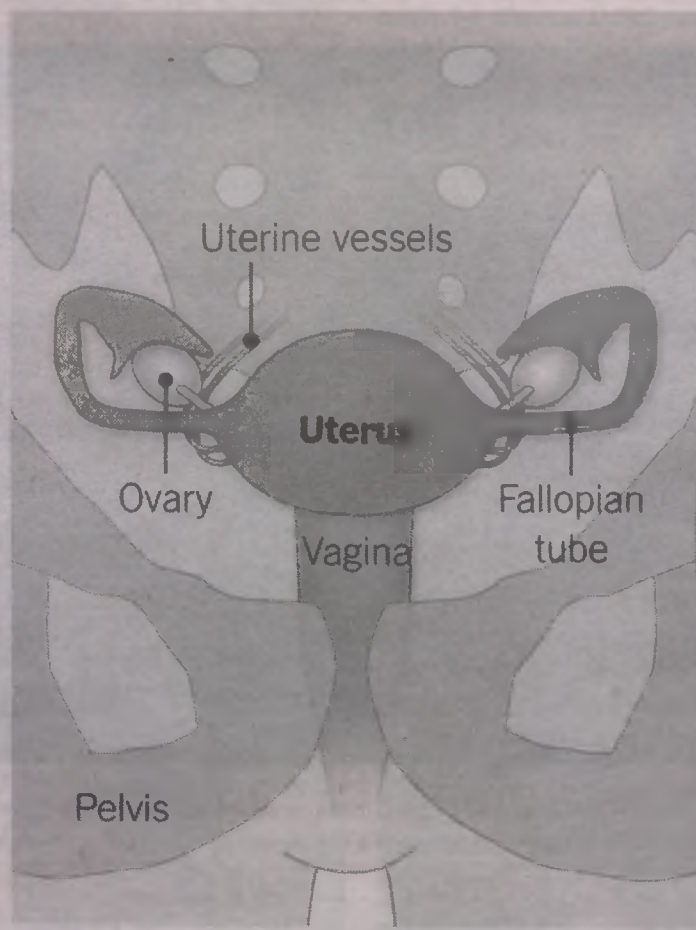
flammatory disease mimic the symptoms of dysmenorrhea. Because dysmenorrhea is thought to be normal, and because of the social restriction of talk of the reproductive system, many teenagers

ductive system, especially the female reproductive system, have changed very little. The founder of Samaritan's, Chad Varah, started his organization because the first funeral he had conducted as a priest was

girls in South Asia knew nothing about menstruation before getting their periods. This most likely comes from misconceptions about the menstrual cycle, and lack of education about the female reproductive system. For this reason, education about the female reproductive system is important to people around the world.

Another study by the Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council found that 73% of the women surveyed referred to menstrual blood as "dirty blood". This shows that not only do girls have misconceptions about menstruation, but also that it can negatively impact the way that they see themselves. Oftentimes, people do not have access to puberty education within their schools, if they are lucky enough to go to school.

The 2010 report Strengthening Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools states that schools do not typically cover the topics of puberty and menstruation in a girl-friendly way. By not providing adequate puberty and reproductive education, schools do not help girls understand their own bodies, further pushing the stigma and silence surrounding menstruation and the female reproductive system. The reproductive system is still very strongly stigmatized - especially in developing countries - and this hurts girls both physically and socially in society. It is our responsibility as global citizens to destigmatize and normalize the reproductive system.



DR. TOMMASO FALCONE, CLEVELAND CLINIC; BIODIGITAL/THE NEW YORK TIMES

A diagram depicting the uterus, a female reproductive organ.

do not discuss their concerns with a medical professional. Although the reproductive system is considered inappropriate, it is a very important part of the body, and must be discussed openly.

Although the reproductive system is a crucial aspect of the human body, certain cultural attitudes about the repro-

ductive system, especially the female reproductive system, have changed very little. The founder of Samaritan's, Chad Varah, started his organization because the first funeral he had conducted as a priest was

that of a 14 year old girl who had killed herself because she thought her first period was a sexually transmitted disease. She is not alone, a study done by UNICEF in 2013 revealed that 10% of girls in India and 43% in Iran believe that menstruation is a disease. In fact, the same study also revealed that one out of three